

## WHAT IS STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT?

Assessment is a collective process of systematic inquiry into student learning. Its aim is to help faculty improve the quality of the education we deliver.

At its best, assessment engages faculty in ongoing, meaningful, lively conversations about what students need to know and be able to do to earn an Eastern diploma; addresses questions fueled by professors' genuine curiosity about what their students are and are not learning; and generates useful information

***Assessment aims to improve the quality of education we deliver by engaging faculty in a process of genuine, systematic inquiry into student learning.***

that faculty can and do use to improve their courses and programs. In other words, assessment can be understood as an organizational process designed to bring faculty into dialogue with one other about

student learning.<sup>1</sup> At its worst, it viewed as—and, therefore, becomes—a time-wasting bureaucratic activity in which faculty produce a report for administrators and accrediting bodies that aims to “prove” their students are learning.

The materials provided on this website are designed to create the conditions that will allow assessment to be valuable to, and valued by, faculty by generating meaningful discussion on campus about how best to educate our students.

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<sup>1</sup> Jill Kern is grateful to Charles Blaich and Kathy Wise by way of Pat Hutchings for this insight.